

From: E.S.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 1:58am
Subject: I OPPOSE the current Microsoft settlement proposal

I am OPPOSED to the current Microsoft settlement, and I SUPPORT HARSHER PENALTIES against Microsoft.

Microsoft have been convicted of violating the Sherman antitrust law on several counts, and have been found guilty of illegally using their monopoly power in order to maintain their monopoly power, thus destroying competitors such as Netscape and preventing consumer choice by forcing OEM suppliers to use only Microsoft software (or else face unreasonably harsh and anti-competitive penalties by Microsoft).

The current proposal does nothing to penalize Microsoft; without penalties, the nation (and indeed the world) as a whole is not served justice.

Allowing Microsoft to escape this long-lived battle relatively unscathed -- *especially* after being found guilty on several counts -- would make a mockery of our judicial system, and whatever respect for the system that still exists in the minds of the public will be further diminished or destroyed.

Microsoft employees and supporters are viewing these trials collectively as a battle they have fought hard to win. Like Jay Leno said one night in reference to a decision made during the trial (paraphrased): "Finally the little guy comes out on top, right?!" It should be noted that Leno was hired several years ago by Microsoft to help introduce Windows 95 (by using a popular and well-known television personality)...

If the Department of Justice wishes to be viewed as weak-kneed and perhaps even serving of mostly corporate interests, then accepting the current proposal is the path to this public view.

If, however, the Dept. of Justice wishes to be viewed as a respectable entity, unafraid of a challenge, and willing to stand up for that which is legally, morally, and ethically-correct, without regards for whether the criminal is an individual, a company, or a non-profit organization -- in essence following the "justice is blind" philosophy that law is thought to abide by -- then I once again encourage harsher penalties for Microsoft.

Thank you for your time.